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PLAN FOR DEVELOPING THE CLOTHING PROGRAM OF 4-H CLUBS IN NEW MEXICO*
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

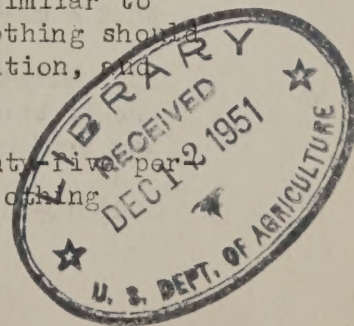
Excerpts from a thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Clothing and Textiles in the Graduate Division of the Texas State College for Women - Department of Home Economics, by Rheba Merle Boyles, B.S., Denton, Texas, June 1949.

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In her investigation of the factors influencing the 4-H clothing program, the writer found that of the 281 representative 4-H Club girls in the State of New Mexico, the majority lived on farms and ranches. Fifty percent had family incomes below \$3,000; the average size of the families included six members; fifty percent of the girls earned money outside the home. She found also that ninety percent of the girls were enrolled in the junior division and ten percent in the senior division of 4-H Club work.

The following conclusions have been drawn from the tabulations and analyses of information obtained in the questionnaire:

1. The high percentage of first-year membership indicates a need for incorporating a terminal program at the junior level. Likewise, the relatively low membership in the senior group suggests a need for strengthening the program at that level. The eleven percent difference between the enrollment in the senior division in the United States and that of New Mexico suggests further evidence of the need for finding ways to make the work more adaptable and interesting for the New Mexico seniors.
2. The average age of the juniors was 12.48 years, and that of the seniors was 16.44 years.
3. Eighty-eight percent of the senior girls and sixty-six percent of the junior girls lived on farms and ranches. There was definite evidence that girls living in the rural areas remain in club work longer than do those of urban areas.
4. One half of the girls earned money outside the home. Eighty percent of those earning money purchased clothing with part of their earnings. More juniors earned money than seniors.
5. The clothing needs of the girls, when viewed in the light of their various activities, presented problems that are similar to those of other girls of the same age levels. Their clothing should provide for outdoors and household work, school, recreation, and dress occasions.
6. Approximately fifty percent of the seniors and twenty-five percent of the juniors had had one to four semesters of clothing training in schools.



7. Forty-two percent of the girls selected their clothing without assistance. This fact, when viewed in the light of their youth and consequent lack of experience and judgment, points to the need for emphasis in clothing selection.
8. All the seniors and sixty-seven percent of the juniors reported making most or at least some of their clothing. Clothing construction obviously is one of the important units of the club program if it is to meet the needs of the girls.
9. Ninety-six percent of the seniors and sixty-five percent of the juniors helped their mothers make clothing for themselves and for other members of the family, thus emphasizing further the need for clothing construction.
10. All the seniors and eighty-three percent of the juniors liked some of the garments which they made. Approximately forty-five percent of both groups liked all the garments made, while dislike of their garments was expressed by seventeen percent. These facts indicate a need for analyzing the causes of dislike and to seek solutions.
11. Approximately one-fourth of the girls kept budgets.
12. A total of 114 girls kept some records of clothing expenditures. Sixteen girls kept complete records.
13. Ninety-three percent of the homes represented had sewing machines. However, twenty-one of the juniors reported that they were not permitted to use the sewing machine. This fact suggests the advisability of including in the program some training in the use and care of sewing machines.
14. Approximately seventy percent of the girls recognized their families as the most important sources of help in the solution of their clothing problems. Most of the senior group recognized the home demonstration agent, clothing judging, and clothing demonstrations as sources of information, whereas only a fourth of the juniors checked these sources of help. The program planners should recognize the need for making better use of the various educational aids in the 4-H Club programs.
15. All the senior girls and seventy percent of the junior girls reported that they gained information from having their work judged. However, about a third of the junior girls reported learning little or nothing from this experience of judging. These findings indicate that a more educational form of judging is needed.
16. Eighty-six of the 101 second- and third-year girls and all but one of the senior girls reported that they had finished their clothing projects the previous year.

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17. A total of 146 girls chose clothing projects to increase their knowledge. Eighty-nine girls chose clothing for pleasure, seventy-seven girls expressed a need for choosing clothing, and sixty-seven girls recognized the values to be derived from clothing.

In reviewing the survey of the 281 representative 4-H Club girls in New Mexico, the writer is convinced that the information gained will prove helpful in improving the clothing program.

